

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GEORGE 01469 201411Z

41

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 EB-11 CIEP-03 TRSE-00 STR-08

OMB-01 CEA-02 IO-14 /156 W
----- 127081

R 201215Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0178

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOATA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1469

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XL, GY

SUBJECT: GOG PROMOTING "CARIBBEAN BASIN" MEETING

SUMMARY: ACCORDING FONMIN RAMPHAL, GOG EXPECTS SOUND OUT OTHER GOVTS IN SEPTEMBER ON THEIR INTEREST IN A "CARIBBEAN BASIN" MEETING TO BE HELD TRINIDAD EARLY 1975 (FEBRUARY PROBABLY). IDEA BROACHED DURING RAMPHAL'S JUNE VISIT CARACAS AND HAS FULL SUPPORT VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT PEREZ, AS WELL AS CARICOM MEMBERS. OBJECTIVE IS TO PROMOTE FURTHER CONCEPT OF "CARIBBEAN IDENTITY" IN PREPARATION FOR SUBSEQUENT OASGA AND MFM IN BUENOS AIRES.

AT SAME TIME, GOG HOPES BY THIS MEANS ENGAGE VENEZUELA IN CONSTRUCTIVE CARIBBEAN ROLE WHICH WILL ACT TO INHIBIT GOV FROM PURSUING ITS ESSEQUIBO TERRITORIAL CLAIM. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GEORGE 01469 201411Z

1. FONMIN RAMPHAL, IN REVIEWING WITH ME ON AUGUST 15 HIGHLIGHTS

OF HIS JUNE-JULY VISITS TO LIMA, QUITO AND CARACAS, SAID ONE OF MAJOR PRODUCTS WAS FURTHER PROGRESS ON HIS CONCEPT OF DEVELOPING A "CARIBBEAN IDENTITY" WITHIN THE HEMISPHERE. HE SAID CARICOM LEADERS RECOGNIZE THAT THEIR ORGANIZATION NEEDS BROADER FOCUS THAN RESENT PREDOMINANTLY ENGLISH-SPEAKING ISLAND NATIONS. BOTH WITHIN OAS AND IN LARGER HEMISPHERIC GROUPING, CARIBBEAN REGION HAS INSUFFICIENT WEIGHT AND IS FURTHERMORE PLAGUED WITH PROBLEMS OF EXISTING MINI-STATES (GRENADA) AND POSSIBLY OTHERS YET TO EMERGE. THREE MAIN CARICOM POWERS (GUYANA, JAMAICA, TRINIDAD-TOBAGO) ARE LOOKING FOR VEHICLE TO ENLARGE SCOPE OF CARIBBEAN AS A REGION, BOTH TO GAIN MORE WEIGHT IN HEMISPHERE AND TO ENGAGE RESPONSIBILITY OF LARGER, BETTER ENDOWED COUNTRIES, LIKE VENEZUELA, COLOMBIA, AND MEXICO, IN ASSISTING MINI-STATES OF REGION.

2. AS FIRST STEP, ACCORDING TO RAMPHAL, THE THREE LEADING CARICOM PARTNERS HIT ON IDEA OF A CARIBBEAN BASIN MEETING TO DISCUSS MATTERS AFFECTING THE REGION AS A WHOLE AND TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF FORMING A REGIONAL ASSOCIATION TO SOME EXTENT ANALOGOUS TO ANDEAN PACT AND CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET, AND OBVIOUSLY OVERLAPPING THESE TWO GEORGRAPHICALLY. SINCE VENEZUELAN PARTICIPATION WOULD BE VITAL TO SUCCESS OF EFFORT, RAMPHAL WAS DELEGATED TO BROACH IDEA WITH GOV DURING HIS OFFICIAL VISIT LAST JUNE.

3. HE FOUND NEW VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ MAKING PLANS FOR HEMISPHERIC SUMMIT MEETING DURING 1975 AS PART OF CELEBRATION 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BATTLE OF AYACHUCHO, BUT AT SAME TIME ENTHUSIASTIC OVER CARIBBEAN BASIN MEETING AS MEANS OF GIVING FURTHER EXPRESSION TO VENEZUELAN INTEREST AND CONCERN FOR SECURITY AND PROGRESS IN AREA CLOSE TO HOME. IN SHORT, PEREZ PLEDGED HIS GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT AND AGREED TO TRAINIDAD AS LOGICAL SITE FOR THE METING. (RAMPHAL GOT PM WILLIAMS CONSENT TO HOST MEETING BY TELEPHONE CALL FROM CARACAS). IT WAS FURTHER AGREED THAT RAMPOAL WOULD UNDERTAKE TO SOUND OUT NON-CARICOM GOVERNMENTS AND TO SET FEBRUARY 1975 AS TARGET DATE FOR MEETING. RAMPHAL TOLD ME THIS IS NEXT MAJOR ITEM ON HIS AGENDA.

4. RAMPHAL DESCRIBED THE PROPOSED COMPOSITION OF THE MEETING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GEORGE 01469 201411Z

AS INCLUDING ALL INDEPENDENT NATIONS IN OR BORDERING ON CARIBBEAN, LESS THE U.S.A. (PRESUMABLY U.S. BORDERS ONLY ON GULF OF MEXICO). HE FAILED MENTION PUERTO RICO. IT WOULD ALSO INCLUDE ISLANDS WITH SELF-GOVERNMENT SUCH AS ST. LUCIA, ST. KITTS, MARTINIQUE, CURACAO, ETC. HE DID NOT MENTION SURINAM OR FRENCH GUIANA. ON INCLUSION OF CUBA, RAMPHAL SAID CARICOM PARTNERS MADE THIS A SINE QUA NON FOR HIS PRESENTATION TO PEREZ AND LATTER SAID IT

WOULD NOT BE PROBLEM FOR HIS GOVT. RAMPHAL FELT CUBANS WOULD BE RECEPTIVE AND THAT WHILE THEIR PRESENCE MIGHT CAUSE DOMINICANS, GUATEMALANS AND POSSIBLY NICARAGUANS TO HESITATE, ON BALANCE HE BELIEVED NOT MORE THAN TWO OR THREE NATIONS WOULD BALK ALTOGETHER. MOREOVER, HE SEES CUBAN PRESENCE AT SUCH MEETING AS USEFUL "TEST RUN" PRIOR TO BUENOS AIRES MFM WHERE HE BELIEVES CUBANS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN TO BE PRESENT.

5. RAMPHAL SAID THAT ASIDE FROM DECLARED CARICOM OBJECTIVES FOR MEETING, GUYANA HAS FURTHER MOTIVE IN TERMS OF ITS RELATIONS WITH VENEZUELA. GOG IS HIGHLY GRATIFIED OVER RECENT GOV ACTIONS TOWARDS GUYANA, I.E. STAND ON ADMISSION TO IDB AND MORE RECENT INTEREST-FREE US\$15 MILLION LOAN. RAMPHAL BELIEVES IT IS ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM WITH OBJECTIVE OF GETTING VENEZUELA SO THOROUGHLY ENGAGED IN CONSTRUCTIVE CARIBBEAN ROLE THAT WITHIN FEW YEARS IT WILL BECOME UNTHINKABLE TO PURSUE VENEZUELAN CLAIM TO ESSEQUIBO. HE SAID PEREZ TOLD HIM VENEZUELA WILL EVENTUALLY NEED SOME FACE-SAVING DEVICE TO COVER ABANDONMENT OF CLAIM, BUT RAMPHAL WANTS TO CONVERT CARIBBEAN MECHANISM INTO INSURANCE POLICY WHICH WILL BE BINDING ON WHATEVER PARTY IS IN POWER IN VENEZUELA. KREBS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, PROPOSALS (BID)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974GEORGE01469
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740229-0286
From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740834/aaaabcwx.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 FEB 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <05 SEP 2002 by WorrelSW, 3.4.X6>; RELEASED <26 FEB 2003 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOG PROMOTING "CARIBBEAN BASIN" MEETING SUMMARY: ACCORDING FONMIN RAMPHAL, GOG EXPECTS SOUND OUT
TAGS: PFOR, XL, GY, CARIBBEAN BASIN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005